

03500.015567

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:)
: KAZUHIRO SAITO, et al.)
: Application No.: 09/902,719)
: Filed: July 12, 2001)
: For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,)
: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,)
: AND PROGRAMS THEREOF)

Group Art Unit: 2621

April 8, 2004

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4-16-04

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,689,350
Europe 820 189
Europe 674 430
Europe 529 967
Germany 31 45 535

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report from the European Patent Office, which is dated March 4, 2004, is enclosed.

An English-language abstract for Germany 31 45 535 is enclosed and is believed to provide an explanation of relevance for the reference.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015567 | | APPLICATION NO. 09/902,719 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT KAZUHIRO SAITO, et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE July 12, 2001 | | GROUP 2621 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 5,689,350 | 11/18/97 | Rolleston | 358 | 504 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 820 189 | 1/21/98 | Europe | | | |
| | | 674 430 | 9/27/95 | Europe | | | |
| | | 529 967 | 3/3/93 | Europe | | | |
| | | 31 45 535 | 5/26/83 | Germany | | | Abstract |
| | | | | | | | |

| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1